

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4084

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN/INDONESIAN RELATIONS

REF: JAKARTA 3504

1. MEA JOINT SECRETARY (SOUTHEAST ASIA) GONSALVES RAN BRIEFLY THROUGH THE CURRENT STATE OF INDIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS WITH POLCOUNSELOR AND VISITING INDIA COUNTRY DIRECTOR KUX MARCH 22. GONSALVES SAID INDONESIANS WERE INTERESTED IN INDIAN TECHNOLOGY PARTICULARLY INDIAN HELP IN BUILDING A STEEL MILL, AND IN POSSIBLY SENDING SOME TECHNICIANS FOR TRAINING TO THE INDIAN ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTER IN BOMBAY. HE WAS VAGUE ON WHAT THE INDONESIANS WOULD DO FOR THE INDIANS IN EXCHANGE, OBSERVING THAT BOTH MURTOPO'S VISIT AND THAT BY DEPUTY COMMANDER OF THE INDO-NESEAN ARMED FORCES, GENERAL SURONO, HAD BEEN HIGHLY GENERALIZED IN THEIR CONTENT.

2. GONSALVES SAID INDIAN ESTIMATES WERE THAT SURONO WAS POSSIBLY A MORE POWERFUL FIGURE THAN MURTOPO, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE WAS SCHEDULED TO SUCCEED SHORTLY TO BE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. SOME OF THEIR SOURCES, HE SAID, FELT MURTOPO'S INFLUENCE HAD SLIPPED SUBSTANTIALLY WHILE OTHERS INSISTED MURTOPO WAS STILL CLOSER TO SUHARTO THAN ANYONE ELSE.

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3. GONSALVES ALSO SAID THAT THE INDIANS EXPECT NOTHING FROM THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT FAKRUDDIN ALI AHMED TO INDONESIA BUT THIS WAS THE "PRICE" THE INDONESIANS EXTRACTED IF SUHARTO WAS TO CONSIDER A VISIT TO INDIA.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHY INDIAN-INDONESIAN RELATIONS APPERARED TO BE TURNING MORE ACTIVE IN RECENT MONTHS, GONSALVES SAID HE THOUGH INDONESIA HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN ASEAN AND WAS NOW TURNING ITS ATTENTION MORE TOWARD THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE LARGEST NATION IN THAT AREA.
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